after year due to population growth. Further, due to large emporal and spatial variation in the rainfall in the country, the availability of water also varies considerably from one basin to another.

(d) Water being a State subject, several measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water and adoption of better management practices etc. However, Government of India provides central assistance to the State Governments for completion of on-going irrigation projects under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP). Further, a pilot scheme titled "National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture" has been approved by Government of India in January 2005. Government of India also provides support under centrally sponsored scheme for Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD&WM) with a view to bridging the gap between irrigation potential created and potential utilized. Government has also constituted an Advisory Council on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Water Resources with the main objective to popularize the concept of artificial recharge to ground water among all stakeholders.

Charges for commercial use of water

†1463. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exercise of keeping in check the companies manufacturing mineral water and cold drinks by utilizing ground water recklessly has been initiated;

(b) whether his Ministry is contemplating on fixing rates of water in view of its commercial utilization; and

(c) whether the level of ground water in Punjab and Delhi has decreased alarmingly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) "Water" being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the States concerned to take necessary action for control and regulation of ground water extraction by industries including, companies manufacturing mineral water and cold drinks. However, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) constituted under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, is regulating extraction of ground water by new industries including companies manufacturing mineral water and cold drinks proposed to be located in 'Over exploited'/'Critical' areas. CGWA had circulated a list of critical areas to State Pollution Control Boards, Ministry of Environment & Forests etc., which refer proposals of new industries to CGWA for obtaining No Objection Certificate (NOC) before issuing permission. Depending upon the availability of ground water and site specific scientific considerations in such area, NOC is granted by the CGWA on case to case basis. A pre-condition for such permission is the mandatory adoption of rain water harvesting system for ground water recharge by the industry.

(b) 'Water' being a State subject, action for fixing rates of water for commercial utilization is to be taken by the States.

(c) The level of ground water in Punjab and Delhi have decreased considerably. As per the recent assessment carried out jointly by the Central Ground Water Board and the States, in Punjab, out of 137 blocks, 103 are 'Over-exploited', i.e. annual ground water withdrawal exceeds annual replenishable resource and significant decline in long term ground water level trend has been observed either in pre-monsoon or post-monsoon or both. In Delhi, 7 out of 9 districts are "Over-exploited". In additions, 5 blocks in Punjab are 'Critical' with stage of ground water development between 90% and 100% of annual replenishable resource and long term water levels show significant decline during both Pre-monsoon and Post-monsoon periods.

Over utilization of ground water

1464. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that States like Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan,